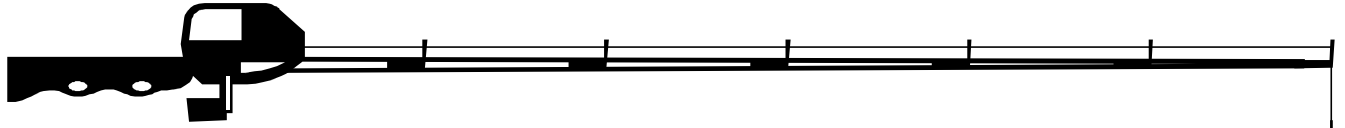


"Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

# The Fishing Line

News and Notes from Troy Christian Church



This article was inspired by an e-mail that John King sent me a while back. Thanks John.

## STAY USEFUL

From the  
**MINISTER**

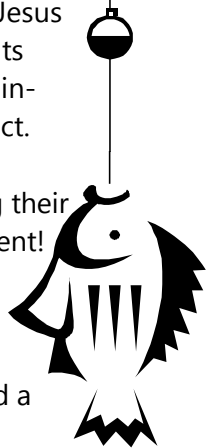
Inactivity accelerates death. If you leave a classic car parked unused in a garage for years it will deteriorate far more rapidly than if it is lovingly driven and regularly maintained. Put all your family's antique silverware in a drawer, and it will only tarnish. Polish it and use it regularly, and it will draw compliments for its beauty. Even our physical bodies testify to this truth. This was brought home to me this week while I was with my father at the outpatient unit at the hospital. I struck up a conversation with the spry elderly volunteer who was wheeling my father to his room. I asked him how long he had been doing this, and what got him started. He said that when he retired he just sat down and watched life go by. Within six months his cholesterol and blood pressure had risen to dangerous levels, and he was suffering from depression. His doctor wanted to put him on all kinds of medications, but he said that wouldn't be necessary. He left the doctor's office, went to the hospital and said he wanted to be a volunteer. He said that was what did the trick; staying busy with and interested in some cause outside of himself. They should use him as a poster child for volunteer recruitment.

This principle also holds true concerning the gifts, talents and callings God has invested in our lives. Inactivity brings spiritual ill health and even death. I am not referring here to the time that we should and must be still before the Lord, but rather the exercise of our spiritual gifts in ministry. In the parable of the talents, Jesus identified a man as an unprofitable servant due to his lack of investment with what he was given. "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 25:28-30)

God has invested gifts in our lives, and we need to do more than bury them and guard them until Jesus returns. Gifts must be invested in other people's lives. The outcome of investing our gifts and talents into others is produce for the Kingdom of God. Inactivity, isolation, indifference, and the refusal of involvement in building the body of Christ will warp a vibrant and productive life into a useless artifact.

I am very thankful for the large number of people in our body who are purposely, prayerfully using their gifts in the advancement of the kingdom, but if you are sitting on the sidelines, don't hide your talent! Don't set your gift on a shelf! Step out by faith and invest yourself in the Kingdom of God.

On October 3rd we will begin our study of the book of I Corinthians. It will be relevant and helpful to us living in 21st century America. It is also Friend Day. Hope to see you there with your Bible and a friend...Dave





# LOVE THE CHURCH? HATE THE *CROWDING?*

## We now have room for everyone!

We will begin having TWO SERVICES on October 3, 2010.

Both services will be nearly identical, and child care and Children's Church will be provided at both.

1st Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

2nd Service: 10:30 a.m.

## October 3rd is FRIEND DAY!

We'll have plenty of room for everyone, so invite your friends and family to come to this special service.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

- |                                  |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Lisa Speaks, Cuttar Huss       | Bruce Jeschke                           | 20 Nick Johnson, Brett Speaks                             |
| 2 Cyndi Miller                   | 12 Chrystal Hooker                      | 22 Noelle Etherton  |
| 3 J.D. Dominguez, Doris Phillips | 13 Alesha Miller                        | 23 Madison Harbeston                                      |
| 4 Wayne Rush                     | 14 Wayne & Cindy Rush                   | 26 David Keller, Margaret Whetstine                       |
| 5 Gene Speaks                    | 16 Cylence Gould, Gene & Barbara Speaks | 27 John Mike & Laurie Simpson, Jared Mendell, Zac Douglas |
| 6 Reece Simpson, Nellie Clary    | 17 Wilma Williams                       | 30 Don Huss, Chad Winder, Josie Smith                     |
| 7 Tom & Anita Speaks             | 18 Steve & Candy Albers, Colin Jasper   |   |
| 9 Jake Smith, Jo Keller          |   |   |
| 11 Bree Masters, Jana Dominguez, |   |   |

### Our Services and Activities

#### Sundays:

- 8:00 a.m. 1st Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. 2nd Service
- 6:00 p.m. 7th-12th grade youth group

**Wednesdays:** 3:40 - 5:15 p.m. KICKs for K-6th graders

- Oct. 2:** Church cleanup day 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 3:** FRIEND DAY and 2 services begin. Doniphan Co. Life Chain Sunday - 3:00 p.m. Wathena Fire Station
- Oct. 13:** Elder's Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 15:** 5th quarter party
- Oct. 18:** Elder's meeting 6:30 p.m.; Board meeting 7:00

### Weekly Statistics

Our Giving	Attendance
Aug. 29: \$3451.47	154
Sept. 5: \$4078.60	152
Sept. 12: \$2139.70	152
Sept. 19: \$3971.60	153
Church Budget: \$178,712.00	
Needed per Sunday: \$3,436.76	
Building Fund: \$20,925.09	

**CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY**  
October 2 at 9:00 a.m. Please come and help if you can. Many hands make light work.



### OCTOBER 15TH

After the high school football games  
For 9th-12th graders  
**FOOD ~ GAMES**  
Don't miss it!

## *From the Youth Minister*



As I sat down to write this article, I began by praying that God would give the words to strengthen anybody who needed strengthening. Then, I dug into the Bible, and two hours later I was staring at an empty screen. Yet, God answered my prayer, just not the way I was hoping he would. I kept running across scriptures on hope (unintentionally I might add), and found myself neglecting my article to share the scriptures or encouragement with people I knew who were struggling to persevere.

It seems like a lot of people around me, and close to me, are struggling with an unordinary amount of struggles. The compassionate side of me (or the fact that I'm a male) wants to fix everything, but the human side of me obviously doesn't have the strength to. Yet, God is teaching me through this to bring His message of hope. Through hope he will strengthen them (Isaiah 40:31), shield them (Psalms 119:114), and give them what they need to endure (1 Thess. 1:3), more important than all of that; through his hope we draw near to God (Hebrews 7:19).

"We all rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5:3-4

"(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God." Hebrews 7:19

Adam

## The Seven Sticks

A man had seven sons who were always quarreling. They left their studies and work to quarrel among themselves. Some bad men were looking forward to the death of their father, to cheat them out of their property by making them quarrel about it.

The good old man, one day, called his sons around him. He laid before them seven sticks, which were bound together. He said, "I will pay a hundred dollars to the one who can break this bundle."

Each one strained every nerve to break the bundle. After a long but vain trial, they all said that it could not be done.

"And yet, my boys," said the father, "nothing is easier to do." He then untied the bundle, and broke the sticks, one by one, with perfect ease.

"Ah!" said his sons, "it is easy enough to do it so; anybody could do it in that way."

Their father replied, "As it is with these sticks, so is it with you, my sons. So as long as you hold fast together and aid each other, you will prosper, and none can injure you. But if the bond of union be broken, it will happen to you just as it has to these sticks, which lie here broken on the ground."

This story is taken from McGuffey's Readers used in American School systems in the 18 and 19 hundreds.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

## Three Kinds of Faith

There are three kinds of faith in Christ:

- 1 Struggling faith, like a man in deep water desperately swimming.
- 2 Clinging faith, like a man hanging to the side of a boat.
- 3 Resting faith, like a man safely within the boat (and able to reach out with a hand to help someone else get in).

~D.L. Moody

*"Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19*

# The Fishing Line

News and Notes from Troy Christian Church



October 2010

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Rick Simmons 985-2240; J.D. Euler 989-4444; Tom

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